

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
26 May 2005 (26.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/047463 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12N** Pomezia (IT). **TRABONI, Cinzia** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30, 600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/036575

(74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.**; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US).

(22) International Filing Date:
3 November 2004 (03.11.2004)

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/517,605 5 November 2003 (05.11.2003) US

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): **MERCK & CO., INC.** [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (US). **ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P. ANGELETTI SPA.** [IT/IT]; Via Pontina KM. 30, 600, I-00040 Pomezia (IT).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HCV REPLICONS CONTAINING NS5B FROM GENOTYPE 2B

SMSYZ¹WTGALITPCGPEEKLPIX¹PLSNSLX²RFHNKVYSTTSRSASLRKKVTFDRVQV
LDAHYDSVLQDVKRAASKVSARLLTVEEACALTTPHSAKSRYGFGAKEVRSLSRRAVNHIR
SVWEDLLEDQHTPIDTTIMAKNEVFCIDPTKGKKPARLIVYPDLGVRVCEKMALYDIAQK
LPKAIMGPSYGFQYSPAERVDPLLKAWGSKDKPMGFSYDTRCFDSTVTERDIRTEESIYQA
CSLPQEARTVIHSLTERLYVGGPMTNSKGQSCGYRRCRASGVFTTSMGNTMTCYIKALAAC
KAAGIVDPVMLVCGDDLVVISESQNEEDERNLRAFTEAMTRYSAPPGDLPRPEYDLELIT
SCSSNVSVALDSRGRRRYFLTRDPTTPX³TRAAWETVRHSPVNSWLGNIIQYAPTIWVRMVI
MTHFFSILLAQDTLNQNLFEMYGAVYSVNPLDLPAIIERLHGLEAFSLHTYSPHELSRVA
ATLRKLGAPPLRAWKSRARAVRASLIAQGARAAICGRYLFNWAVKTKLKLTPLPEASRLDL
SGWFTVGAGGGDIYHSVSHARPRLLLCLLLSVGVGIFLLPDR

(57) Abstract: The present invention features methods for enhancing the ability of a genotype 2b NS5B sequence to function in a replicon, for producing replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B, and for using replicons to measure the ability of a compound to affect HCV replication that is sustained with the genotype 2b polymerase. Also featured is a genotype 1b NS4B adaptive mutation. The ability to produce replicons containing a functional genotype 2b NS5B is illustrated by the production of chimeric replicons based on HCV genotype 1b where substantially all the NS5B sequence is replaced with a genotype 2b NS5B.

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